WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, or 12;

(b) a polynucleotide having at least 85% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11 wherein said polynucleotide encodes a protein which modulates disease resistance;

(c) a full length polynucleotide which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide which modulates disease resistance and said stringent conditions comprise hybridization for 6 to 8 hours in 50% formamide, 1M NaCl, 1% SDS at 37°C and a final wash for 30 to 60 minutes at 0.1 x SSC at 60° to 65°C;

(d) a polynucleotide comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11; and,

(e) a polynucleotide comprising a full complement of (a), (b), (c) or (d).

2. A vector comprising at least one nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

3. A recombinant expression cassette, comprising the nucleotide sequence of claim 1 operably linked to a promoter, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is in the sense or antisense orientation.

4. A host cell comprising the recombinant expression cassette of claim 3.

5. A transgenic plant cell comprising the recombinant expression cassette of claim 3.

6. A transgenic plant comprising the recombinant expression cassette of claim 3.

7. The transgenic plant of claim 6, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of maize, soybean, sunflower, sorghum, canola, wheat, alfalfa, cotton, rice, barley, and millet.

8. A transgenic seed from the transgenic plant of claim 7, wherein the seed comprises the construct.

9. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polypeptide comprising at least 80% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, or 12, wherein said polypeptide modulates disease resistance; and;

(b) a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, or 12.

10. A method of modulating the level of a polypeptide in a plant comprising:

(a) introducing into a plant cell a recombinant expression cassette comprising a polynucleotide operably linked to a promoter wherein said polynucleotide is selected from the group consisting of:

i) a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, or 12;

ii) a polynucleotide having at least 85% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a protein which modulates disease resistance;

iii) a full length polynucleotide which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide which modulates disease resistance and said stringent conditions comprises hybridization for 6 to 8 hours in 50% formamide, 1M NaCl, 1% SDS at 37°C and a final wash for 30 to 60 minutes at 0.1 x SSC at 60° to 65°C; and

iv) a polynucleotide comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11; and

(b) culturing the plant cell under plant cell regeneration conditions to produce a regenerated plant; and,

(c) expressing said polynucleotide for a time sufficient to modulate the level of a defense-inducible polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide in said plant.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of maize, soybean, sunflower, sorghum, canola, wheat, alfalfa, cotton, rice, barley, and millet.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the level of the polypeptide is increased.